

engadget

DISTRO CES 2013 DAILY



ISSUE 73.3

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Photograph by
Will Lipman for Distro
at the TCL Booth



— THE WORLD'S —
BIGGEST CHALLENGES
DESERVE EVEN
BIGGER SOLUTIONS

{ POWERFUL ANSWERS }

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verizon

**CES
2013**

DISTRO

01.10.13

VISUALIZED

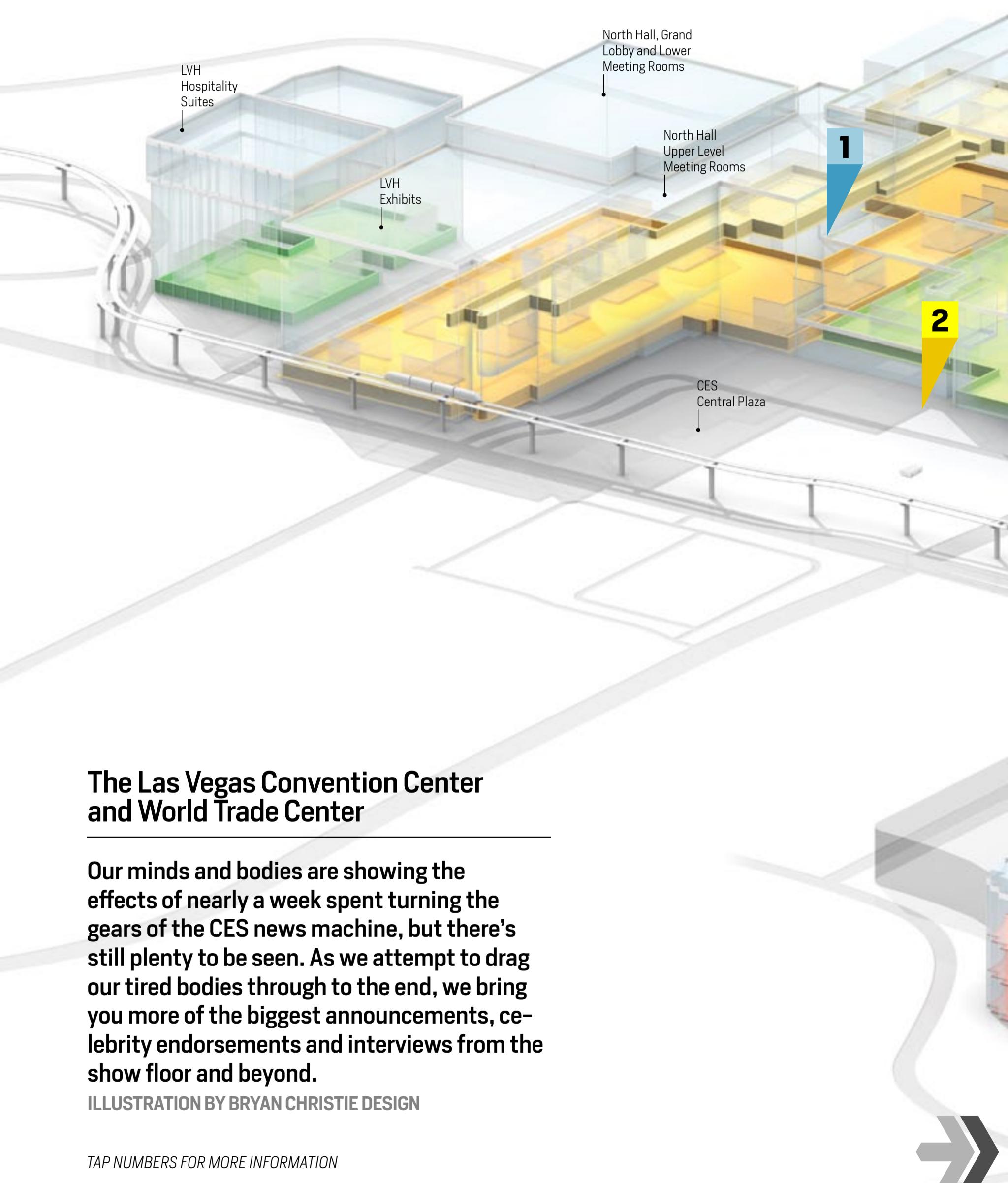


PHOTOGRAPH BY WILL LIPMAN

POWERED UP

A diagram of Delphi's EV charging process translated into *Tron*-like topography.





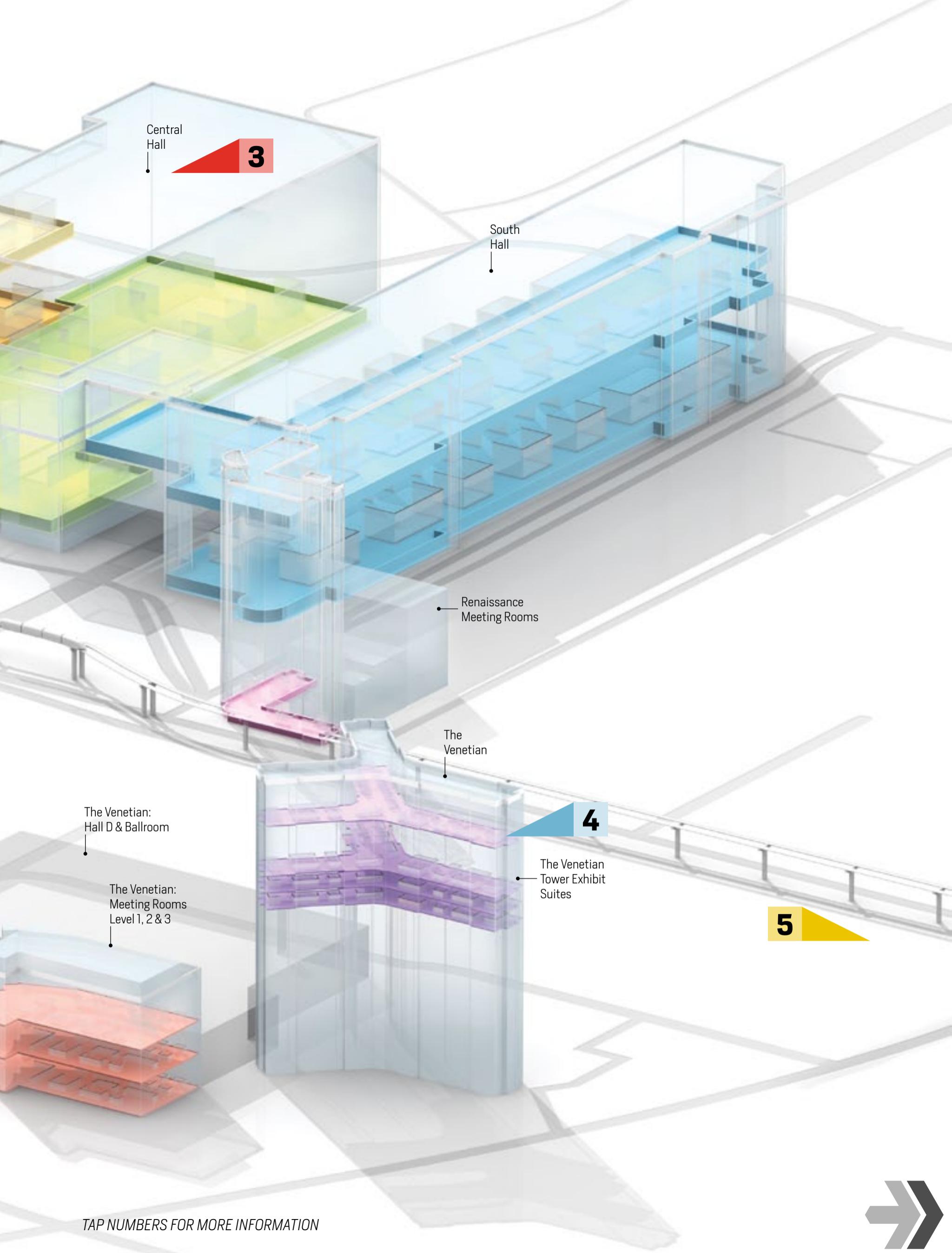
The Las Vegas Convention Center and World Trade Center

Our minds and bodies are showing the effects of nearly a week spent turning the gears of the CES news machine, but there's still plenty to be seen. As we attempt to drag our tired bodies through to the end, we bring you more of the biggest announcements, celebrity endorsements and interviews from the show floor and beyond.

ILLUSTRATION BY BRYAN CHRISTIE DESIGN

TAP NUMBERS FOR MORE INFORMATION





CES2013

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TACTUS
KEYBOARD

GARMIN K2

RAZER EDGE

SAMSUNG SERIES
5 ULTRABOOK

PANASONIC 4K
TABLET

ZTE GRAND S

PANASONIC 4K
OLED TV

SAMSUNG T9000

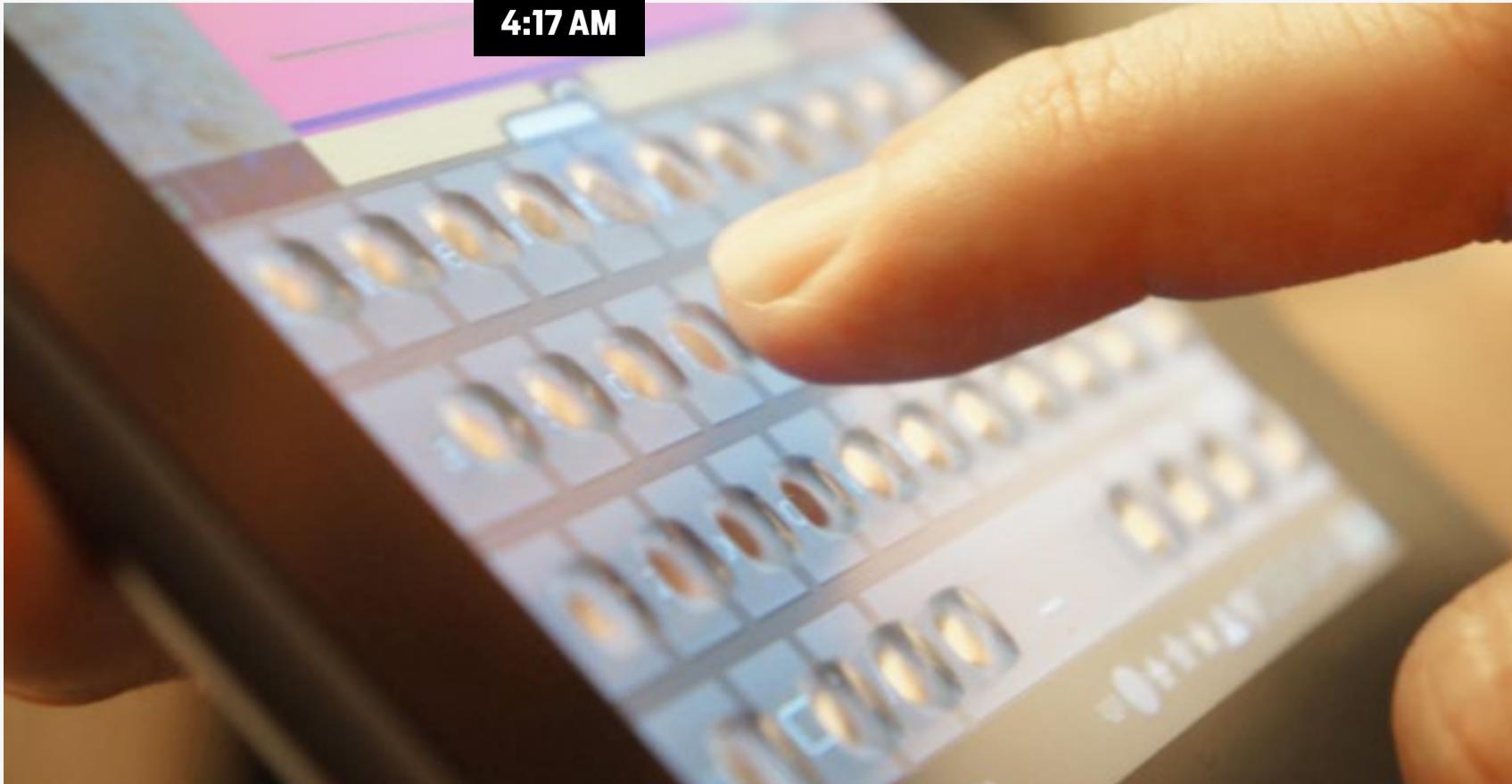
As the show powers on into its third day, we're busy pushing our fifth day of coverage at Engadget HQ. If it wasn't already crystal clear, this year's show has seen a strong return to its roots: home entertainment. Forty six years since its inception, TV is back as the dominant theme, and while we're sure to see even more TVs and second-screen solutions as the show starts to wind down, CES still has some surprises in store.





01.08.2013

4:17 AM

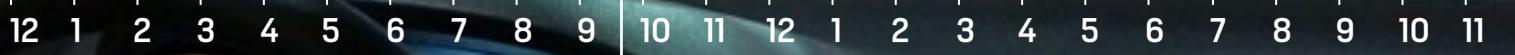
**PRICE:**
TBD**AVAILABILITY:**
TBD**FIRST
IMPRESSION:**
This physical touchscreen keyboard is ready to make QWERTY more touchy-feely.

TACTUS TOUCHSCREEN KEYBOARD



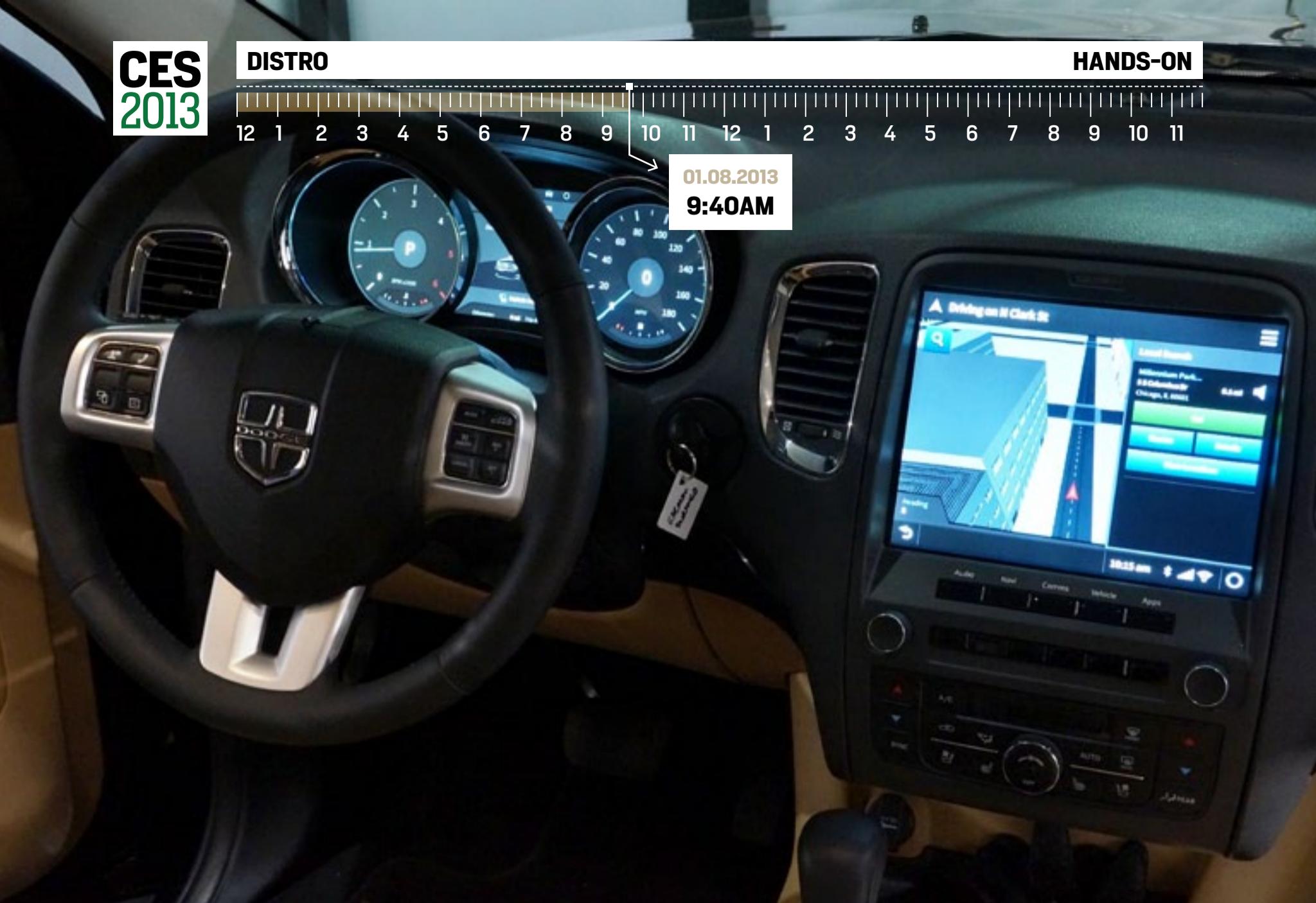
We had an opportunity to catch Tactus at SID earlier this year, though with news that the Tactus keyboard was new and improved for CES, we had no choice but to take a quick peek. What's new? Well, Tactus has been sampling new coating materials attempting to reduce glare — and succeeding — and to cut down on the controller's size by 70 percent. In doing so, it's also doubled up the speed that the keyboard activates. As a refresher, the system includes a reservoir stored in the device, a controller to move the fluid into the tixels — yes, tixels, Tactile Pixels — and software to control the entire system. Once activated, the tixels inflate and become squishy, offering tactile keyboard-like feedback. We like this and even though it's still in an early phase, the system works surprisingly well. Applications may eventually vary from gaming to accessibility, with future offerings adding a complete matrix of independently addressable tixels. —Sean Cooper





01.08.2013

9:40AM

**PRICE**
TBD**AVAILABILITY**
TBD**FIRST
IMPRESSION**

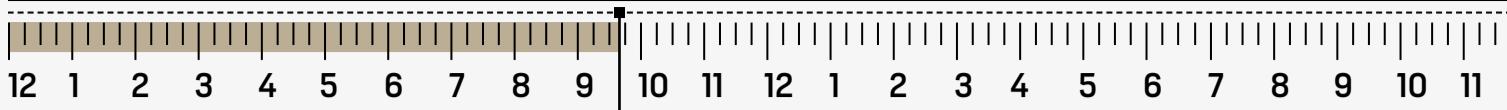
Garmin looks to transform your drive into a fully connected computing experience.

GARMIN'S K2 “GLASS COCKPIT”

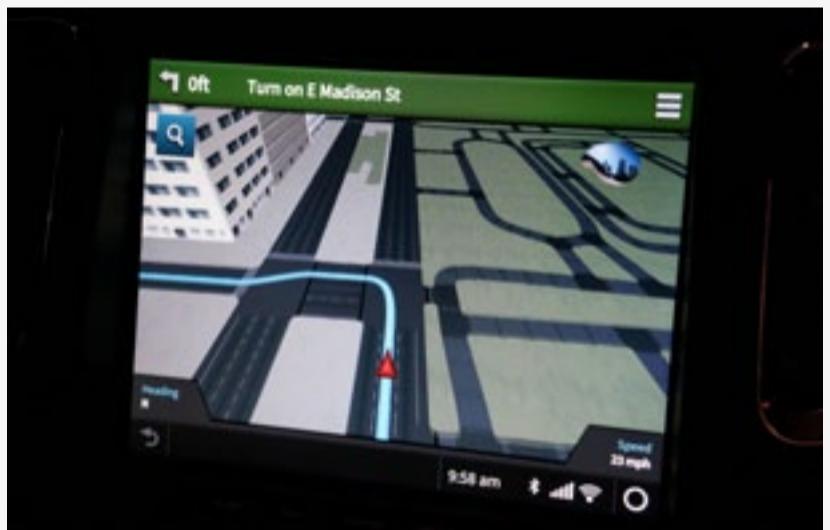
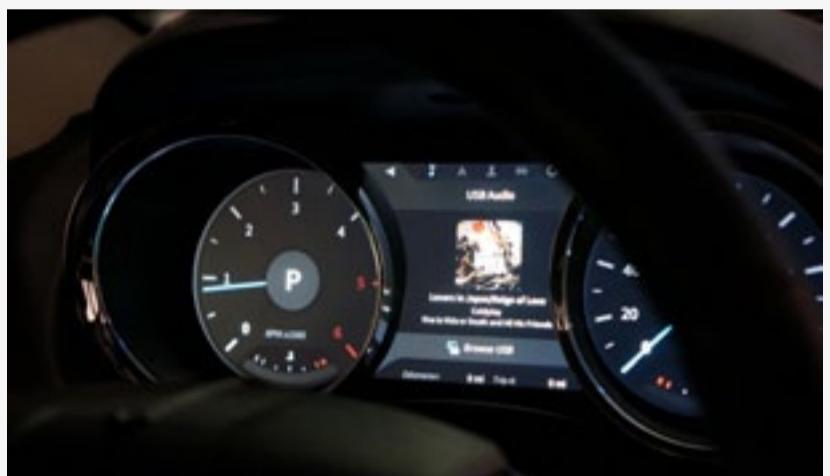


Infotainment platforms are a dime a dozen these days, but Garmin's K2 “glass cockpit” is definitely one system that you're going to want to take seriously. You'll be interacting with a 10.4-inch capacitive touchscreen, which is positioned front and center, while a squat 12-inch digital gauge and information readout console is fixed just behind the steering wheel. The system pulls its realtime data from Garmin's servers through your connected smartphone, or, if vehicle manufacturers opt to include it, you may be able to maintain a constant connection by adding a dedicated modem. Then, you'll have access to realtime traffic information and fuel rates at local gas stations, along with email, text messages and other data feeds, including news and sports scores.





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9:40AM

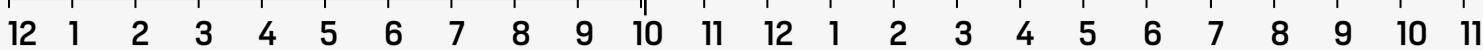


As expected, Garmin has taken safety into account — depending on OEM configurations, you'll likely only be able to operate the center panel while stopped, at which point you can also read and respond to email, send texts, flip through your directory, search for weather, etc. While you're driving, all of those functions shift to a text-to-speech system, which also recognizes commands presented in full sentences. Emails pop up as they're received, with the platform reading messages aloud, if you so choose. You can speak your responses, and a reply will be fired off without any need to direct your attention away from the road.

The system worked very well during our hands-on demo at CES and unlike the version that Garmin presented in 2012, this iteration is completely operational, rendering detailed 3D graphics and popping up with real POIs in response to actual queries. In other words, the K2 we saw would work perfectly well on the road, though Garmin opted to fix the GPS location in Chicago for the purposes of today's demonstration. There's no set date on when we can expect the platform to make its way to vehicles, and pricing will be set by OEMs, but the version we saw today was installed in a Dodge Durango, and it looked mighty fine there.

— Zach Honig





01.08.2013

10:01AM

**PRICE**

\$999 +

AVAILABILITY

Q1 2013

FIRST**IMPRESSION**

A compelling form factor with the potential to change the way we look at portable consoles.

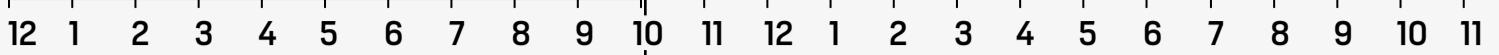
RAZER EDGE GAMING TABLET/HOME CONSOLE



Buying a PC now is more nebulous than it ever was.

You can build your own rig, piece by piece, or buy one of the many pre-fab options out there. Then there are even more outside-of-the-box options, like Razer's Edge (aka "Project Fiona"), which occupies a space all its own. Part laptop, part tablet, part home console and part portable, the Razer Edge is the fruition of Razer CEO Min-Liang Tan's dream to create a "true" portable PC gaming machine. And weighing in at just two pounds, the Edge is dramatically lighter than Razer's other portable gaming machine, the Blade.





01.08.2013

10:01AM



Razer's advertising the Edge as "the world's most powerful tablet," and it's certainly no slouch, hyperbolic statements aside. The touchscreen quickly moves from pane to pane in the Windows 8 UI, and we jumped between games and other apps without a hitch. The tablet without any attachments is relatively light, but it's no more comfortable to hold long-term than any other 10-inch tablet. As a standalone tablet, the Edge is more than capable. It's a weight match for Microsoft's Surface, but bests it in both form and function. It's also thankfully free of bloatware.

The Razer Edge with its detachable gaming controller is where the device starts really showing its strengths. It is

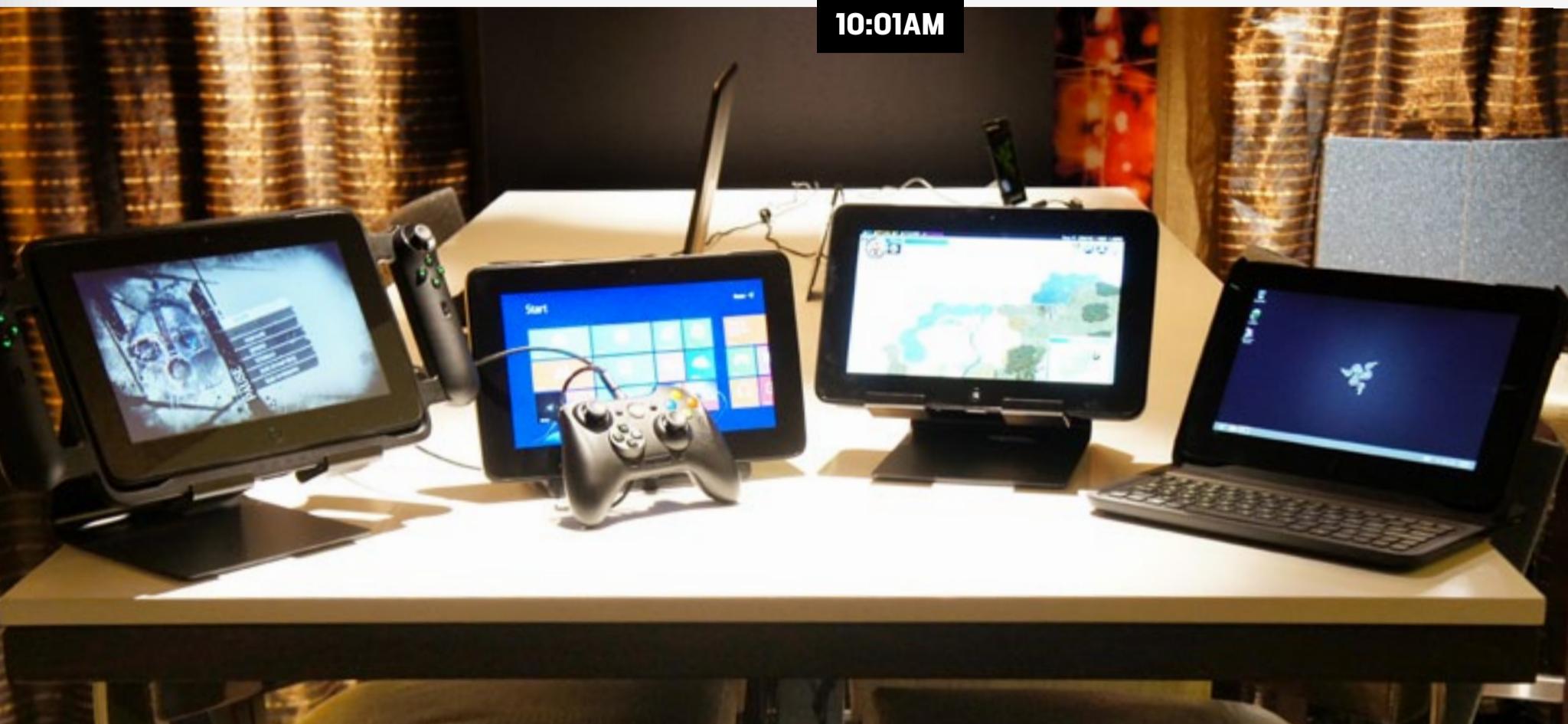
a bit unwieldy, but it's also tantalizing playing high-def PC games on a 10.1-inch IPS display with solid, console-quality controls. The buttons are solid all around — the clicky variety we've come to expect from Razer — and the analog sticks are above the quality we've seen on various gaming-centric tablets. Triggers and shoulder buttons on back round out the package, and feel of similar quality to the rest of the peripheral. Switching between the controller and the touchscreen is *not* an option here, so you'd better be ready for some gaming should you attach it. Beyond just offering controls, however, the attachment can be fitted with an extra 40-watt hour battery (sold separately for \$69), essentially





01.08.2013

10:01AM



doubling the life of the Edge.

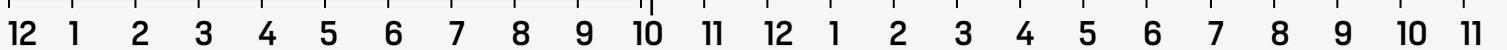
Razer's console dock is perhaps the most interesting device Razer's ever created. It essentially turns a capable gaming tablet into an extremely powerful home gaming console. It also enables four players to get in on the fun, adding three USB 2.0 ports (in addition to the one USB 3.0 port). It also adds an HDMI out — resultantly, Razer's Edge may be the first “Steambox” specifically because of the dock. The setup begs to be used with Steam’s Big Picture Mode — something Razer is quick to point out. Above all else, the console dock is a game changer for both existing consoles and competing gaming laptops. It cuts out all the hassle (perceived and real) of connecting a PC to the living room TV and facilitates plug-and-play PC gaming from the comfort of the futon.

The final peripheral attachment

Razer showed us was a full keyboard attachment and cover, which essentially transforms the Razer Edge from a tablet into a laptop. The keyboard's still a prototype, and as such won't be available for the Edge's Q1 2013 launch. Folks looking to use the Edge as a traditional computer may be a bit flustered by this, but we're inclined to not mind too much. That said, the keyboard looks and feels nice and reminds us of the Razer Blade keyboard. Like the controller attachment, the keyboard also contains a space for an extra 40-watt hour battery.

From Project Fiona to Razer Edge (and Edge Pro), the Windows 8 tablet / portable / home console / laptop has come a long way since its debut last year. — Ben Gilbert





PRICE
\$749 +

AVAILABILITY
February 2013

**FIRST
IMPRESSION**
Samsung updates its Series 5 Ultrabook with a touchscreen and a touch of class.

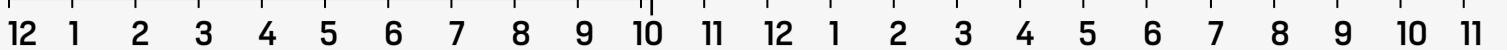
SAMSUNG SERIES 5 ULTRABOOK



Just about a year after Samsung first announced its mid-range Series 5 Ultrabooks, it's refreshing them with a higher-end aluminum chassis, backlit keyboards and touchscreens. The laptop, will be available with a 14-inch screen only, offered in black, red and navy (same as the GS III). It will come standard with a touchscreen in the US, though the version on display here at CES wasn't touch-enabled.

Perhaps the biggest difference — aside from the touch bit — is





01.08.2013
10:10AM

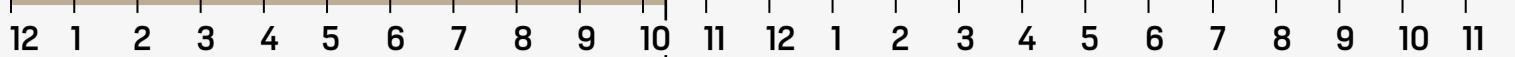


that the design has a considerably more upscale feel than the last-gen models. Here, you have a brushed-aluminum lid that takes after the high-end Series 9 line. In fact, every surface here is made of metal, save for the bottom, which is plastic. The keyboard layout is more similar to last year's model, though, except now it has backlighting.

As before, the chassis is thick enough to accommodate a tray-loading opti-

cal drive. Other amenities include three USB ports (one of them 3.0), an Ethernet jack, HDMI-out, a headphone port, DisplayPort (swapped in for VGA) and a lock slot. A Samsung rep told us it will be sold in two configurations in the US: a \$749 model with a Core i3 processor and 4GB of RAM and an \$899 model with Core i5 and eight gigs of memory. Both will have 1,366 x 768 resolution (a minor disappointment) and a 500GB hard drive paired with 24GB of Express-Cache for faster boot-ups and application launch times. In the US, at least, you're looking at integrated graphics only, though in other countries it will be available with an AMD Radeon HD 8750 GPU. — *Dana Wollman*





01.08.2013

10:17 AM

**PRICE**
TBD**AVAILABILITY**
TBD**FIRST
IMPRESSION**

This titanic tablet boasts a stunning display and aims for the pro market of the future.

PANASONIC 4K TABLET PROTOTYPE



The Panasonic liveblog was barely finished when we saw this beauty calling out to us from the show floor. This is Panasonic's 20-inch 4K tablet, running Windows 8. It's a prototype design right now, but seemed to be pretty well put together, and not something quickly knocked up for the show. Given that it's not a full release model, details on specifications are sparse, but we can tell you that as well as that truly jaw-dropping display, there is a front-facing camera (no details on resolution, but



12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

01.08.2013

10:17 AM

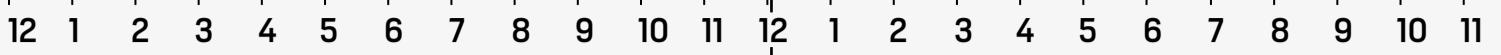


possibly two megapixels), and an Intel Core i5 running the show. As far as input / output info, there wasn't a lot going on, but there was micro-USB, microSD and at least WiFi. If you're thinking that the display is going to pretty much keep you tethered to a wall to keep it powered, we were told that it will at least give you two hours of use on the go.

Panasonic also told us that Anoto digital writing technology features in the tablet, which makes sense given that —

judging by the display dimensions for this device — the tablet is aimed at marketing professionals, architects, photographers and other such business users. Considering the tablet's size, it's not the sort of thing you are likely to be slinging in a rucksack and taking out on the road. That said, in our time with it, picking it up and moving it about wasn't terrible, and you can imagine swanky design houses and media companies lining the walls of their offices with these things. —James Trew





01.08.2013

12:01PM

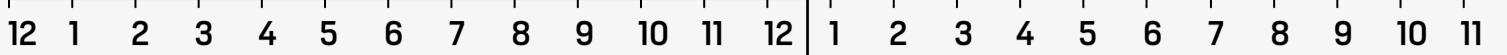
**PRICE**
TBD**AVAILABILITY**
TBD**FIRST
IMPRESSION**
ZTE's Grand S is a power-packed 5-inch smartphone with dreams of superior slimness.

ZTE GRAND S SMARTPHONE



ZTE didn't wait for its official press event to take the official wraps off its latest flagship release, the Grand S; the company is previewing it in its booth. And in a rare match of marketing garble and specs, this grandiose moniker actually befits the hardware to which it's attached. For starters, the handset's decked out with a 5-inch 1080p display, quad-core 1.7GHz Snapdragon S4 Pro CPU, 13-megapixel rear-facing camera / 2-megapixel front-facing cam, 2GB RAM and Android Jelly Bean 4.1 pre-installed. But, its signature claim to mobile fame is its 6.9mm thickness — a slim silhouette the company's billing as a "world's first." If you find that last bit hard to swallow, take note; that self-appointed distinction refers to its place in the 1080p smartphone space. — Brad Molen





01.08.2013

12:37PM

**PRICE**

TBD

AVAILABILITY

TBD

FIRST**IMPRESSION**

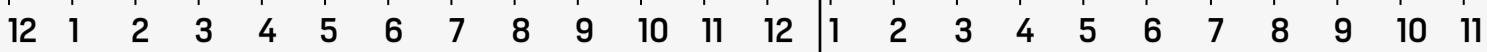
Panasonic joins the 4K OLED fray with this stellar, eye-grabbing display prototype.

PANASONIC 4K OLED TV



Panasonic wasn't about to let Sony one-up it in the 4K OLED arena, and announced its own 56-inch Ultra HD prototype the day after its competitor outed a very similar panel here at CES 2013. We never tire of the luscious combination of 4K and OLED, so we couldn't wait to hightail it to the Panasonic booth to gaze at the new screen in its full glory. As with the Sony model, it sucks you into the screen with the level of detail, brightness, ultra-dark blacks and vivid colors — which looked accurate to our eyes, an area in which OLED can fall down. Other than that impression, there were no other technical details or specs for the prototype display, and none of the Panasonic types we spoke to had any idea either. — Steve Dent



01.08.2013
12:49 PM

SAMSUNG T9000 REFRIGERATOR WITH LCD AND EVERNOTE INTEGRATION



Nestled in the corner of its home appliances stand, Samsung's upgraded T9000 fridge-freezer stood imposingly next to last year's model. But the major differences here are an expanded touchscreen and improved app selection — including Evernote integration. We had a few pokes at the interface, which also includes a read-only Twitter client and Epicurious access, and it's relatively responsive — if not up to the standard of your favorite tablet. But given that it's Evernote, your grocery demands and last-ditch pleas for milk can easily be hooked up to any device capable of running the popular app. This particular appliance also includes an convertible quadrant that can act as either a fridge or a freezer. Unfortunately, Samsung isn't telling us *anything* when it comes to prices or launch dates, but it'd be a shame to see this gigantic WiFi fridge turn into vaporware. —*Mat Smith*

PRICE:

TBD

AVAILABILITY:

TBD

FIRST**IMPRESSION:**

Evernote beats other apps to the punch on this prototype fridge that offers to help you remember the milk.



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ON THE FLOOR: EVERYTHING BUT THE TECH



Gadgets don't sell themselves — not yet anyway — so it takes a heapin' helpin' of celebrities, speedsters and oddities to build up the buzz. 50 Cent, Danny DeVito, Snooki and more were all on hand at CES and some even took a moment to show us some love.



1. blink-182's Travis Barker.
2. Nikon's demo lab.
3. The ViewSonic parrots.
4. Ozaki's robotic display.
5. GoPro's Ford GT40.
6. Pepcom's football pep squad.
7. Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson.
8. The Hisense "digeridude."
9. Motorhead's Lemmy.
10. Audi's RS 5.
11. Danny DeVito.
12. A Pleo pirate.
13. MagCore's Jeremy LaCroix.
14. Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi.



8

9

13



14

12



10

11



11



12



CES PHASE THREE: LINES, WINES AND 8-BIT TIARA DREAMS

I'd give Razer's CEO more points for his hair style than the Edge.

@fyble

I just had to write a story while squatting and crab-walking in a moving line. I hate you, CES.

@lbrunsmann

That is one fugly watch! Toshiba obviously shouldnt try to make watches.

@ArrAySee

It's been said before, but the effort the Archos engineers gave to AVOID making something unique is amazing. #slowclap

@saschasegan

@terrcin

Not sure I'd want Android in my oven.

Coolest thing so far on the #CES floor other than streamtv 4k 3d glassesless displays.... This kids shoes with powered wheels rolling around.

@MichaelAllar

"They go to 13."

Lemmy of Motorhead when asked if his Motorheadphones go to 11.



@Emily

It's 10:30am. They're serving wine at this press conference. People are drinking it. #2013CES #CES

@jrvolpe

Drunken Richard Dreyfuss stops by @Engadget's table. #CES2013

CES has too much ooonce-ooonce and not enough BRRRRRRR-DDDDJJJJKKKKKKKKK-joik-joik-joik-joik-joik #dubces

@mat

"We're hanging a \$10K check in front of people. We're saying, 'You know what, if you build something that is built for BlackBerry, then we're going to guarantee you that you make \$10,000 in the first year in revenues on your application.'

RIM's VP of Developer Relations **Alec Saunders**

@laura_june

since ces started i've eaten two entire jars of olives and a whole box of popsicles.

@omarelakkad

Show floor hours are coming to an end. Now watch as 130,000 people try to take the same monorail at once.

"If somebody brings me a tiara... If it's an 8-bit tiara, my dreams would come true. Let's just put that out there."

*CES Show Ambassador
Felicia Day*

"To give you an idea what a 5K sensor is, it's almost 14 megapixels per frame whether you're doing motion or stills."

*Red Digital Cinema's
Ted Schilowitz*



**CES
2013**

DISTRO

01.10.13

TIME MACHINES



CES1984

It was 1984 and the Winter Consumer Electronics Show was buzzing with emerging computer technologies and more than its share of Tom Selleck look-alikes. According to the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 83,000 attendees checked in to scout the electronic wonders that 1,300 exhibitors had on display. Fast-forward to 2012 and CES pulled in a record 153,000 guests, all scrambling to get a glimpse of Ultrabooks, The Bieb and all that 3,100 exhibitors had to offer.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF CEA/INTERNATIONAL CES



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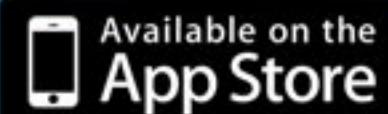
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